

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 1-6 and 9-11. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for coding channels in a wireless communication system in which a digital signal is communicated from a transmitting station to a receiving station, the method comprising the steps of:
  - grouping the bits of the input signal into blocks, a size of each block being adjustable according to a predetermined block size parameter;
  - forward error correction (FEC) coding the bits of the blocks, a rate of the FEC code selected such that a number of FEC symbols in a transmitted block remains constant, even if a number of information bits in a block changes;
  - symbol modulating the FEC symbols of the blocks with a predetermined number of bits per symbol, again such that the number of ~~modulated~~ FEC symbols in a transmitted block remains constant;
  - channel coding the modulated symbols with a spreading code and a channel code to produce a transmit signal; and
  - transmitting the transmit signal over a wireless communication link.
2. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the number of ~~encoded~~ FEC symbols in each transmitted ~~frame~~ block remains the same, even if a ~~symbol encoding rate~~ the rate of FEC code is changed for a given connection.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 wherein ~~a symbol modulator~~ the symbol modulating rate is selected from a group consisting of Quadrature Phase Shift Keyed (QPSK), eight level Phase Shift Key (PSK), sixteen level Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (16 QAM) and 64 QAM.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the number of FEC symbols per ~~modulator symbol~~ transmitted block is selected from the group consisting of 2, 3, 4, and 6 bits per symbol.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 additionally comprising the step of:  
sending a message to the receiver station from the transmitter station, the message including an indication of the ~~encoding rate~~ of FEC code used in generating the encoded frames, thereby permitting the receiver station to determine a symbol decoding rate required to properly decode the symbols of the received frame.
6. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 additionally comprising the step of:  
coding each ~~encoded symbol with~~ of the modulated symbols with a spread code and a channel code to permit separation of the encoded symbols from other encoded symbols transmitted on a given radio carrier frequency signal intended for other channels.
7. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the communication link is a forward link transmitted from a base station transmitter in a direction towards an access unit receiver station.
8. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the communication link is a reverse link channel transmitting information from a remote subscriber unit stationed towards a receiving base station.
9. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 wherein the ~~symbol encoding rate~~ of the FEC code is chosen based upon observed link quality conditions in the radio channel.
10. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 9 in which radio channels experiencing bit error rates cause selection of a ~~symbol encoding rate~~ the rate of the FEC code which is lower.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in Claim 1 wherein ~~symbol encoding rates~~ the rate of the FEC code for different receivers on a given radio carrier frequency have different symbol and framing rates.